ARTICLES

Collected out of

The Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer,
and other Eccleſiaſtical Laws now in force.

FOR THE

Help and aſſiſtance of the Church-wardens and Side-men
(with the aſſiſtance of their Miniſters) of every Pariſh
within the

Archdeaconry of *NORWICH*:

IN THE

VISITATION

Of the Reverend

JOHN REYNOLDS M. A.

Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of *Norwich*.

In the year of our Lord God 1677.

Owen Hughs Dr. of Laws, Official.

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The Form of the Oath.

YOu ſhall ſwear, that you will well and truly execute the Office of Church-Warden, to which you are lawfully Elected within your Pariſh for this preſent year, in all things agreeable to a good Conſcience, and as far as by Law you are bound.

So help you God, by the Contents of his holy Goſpel.

The Side-mens Oath.

YOu ſhall ſwear that you will well and truely execute the Office of Side-man or Queſt-man within your Pariſh; that is to ſay, you ſhall aſſiſt the Church-Wardens for this year in Inquiry and Preſentment of all Offenders and Offences againſt his Majeſties Laws Eccleſiaſtical, in all things agreeable to a good Conſcience, and as far as by Law you are bound.

ARTICLES of Visitation and Enquiry, &c.

Tit. I.

Concerning Churches or Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

IS your Parish-Church or Chappel in good and sufficient repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats?

II. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demolished or pulled down? What part, and how long since? Or any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezel'd or sold, and by whom?

III. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a Cover? and doth the same stand at or near the nether end of your Church, in such manner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the Baptizing of Children? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another covering of white Linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? And have you a seemly Chalice or Communion-cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons? Have they been prophaned by common use?

IV. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service; a Pulpit with a decent Cloath or Cushion; a large Bible of the last Translation, and a Book of Common-Prayer lately published, *Anno* 1662. the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority; and a Printed Table of the degrees within which Marriages are prohibited; and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical; and a decent Surplice and Hood for your Minister to Officiate in? And are the Ten Commandments set up at the East-end of your Church or Chappel, and are the Kings Arms set up in some fitting place of your Church or Chancel?

V. Have you a Register-Book in Parchment, of Christenings, Burials, and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?

VI. Have you a Book of Paper, to record the Names and Licences of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or

Chappel, and do ſuch Strangers ſubſcribe their Names in the ſame? As alſo a third Book for the Church-Wardens accounts?. As alſo a Cheſt with Locks and Keys wherein to keep the ſaid Books, and the fore-mentioned furniture?

VII. Hath any in your Pariſh defaced, or cauſed to be defaced, any Monuments or Ornaments in your Church, Chappel, or Chancel; or erected any new Pews or Monuments therein, without Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tythes belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any perſon encroached upon the ſame, or made any Door into it, and how long ſince?

II. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-Houſes, in good repair? Have any of them been defaced, or pulled down without Licence? Have there been any encroachments made upon the ſame, or any of the ancient Marks or Bounds removed or changed; and by whom?

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage; as alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereto? Have any of the ſame been with-held from your Miniſter, and by whom, as you know or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

I. IS your Miniſter a Prieſt or Deacon Epiſcopally ordained according to the Laws of the Church of *England*, legally Inſtituted and Inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two Moneths after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon ſome Sunday or Holyday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, eſtabliſhed by Authority, and there publickly declare his aſſent thereunto?

II. Is he reſident among you? How many Weeks hath he been abſent from you without urgent neceſſity?

III. Hath

III. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary?

IV. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith?

V. Doth your Minister at the reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood?

VI. Doth he observe the Holy-days and Fasting-days, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

VII. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? If so, Doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? Or if he be not Licenced, or be hindred, doth he procure one to supply his Office by Preaching, or Reading one of the Homilies?

VIII. Doth your Minister instruct the Youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop?

IX. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of Death? Doth he Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? Doth he Baptize publiquely only with Water poured into the Font, without the use of Bason?

X. Hath your Minister, or any other in your Parish, Married any persons without publishing the Bannes on three Sundays or Holy-days, or Licence first obtained? Or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Forenoon? Name who are the parties so married, and who were present at such Marriages. And what Minister or who married them, as far as you know or have heard.

XI. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings, or Exercises not appointed by Authority? Or doth he or any other, either Minister or Lay person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private Houses, within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the

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pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XII. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of a sober and godly Life and Conversation? Or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister? And wherein doth he so misdemean himself?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there any in your Parish that make profession of any other Religion, than what is established in the Church of *England*, and that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church? If there be any, what are their Names?

II. Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Or is there any of your Parish that are guilty of anti-nuptial Fornication; that have had carnal knowledg of Husband or Wife respectively before lawful Marriage? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Raylers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

III. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holy-days follow their bodily and ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? Or do any Vintners Inkeepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days, during the time of Divine Service; particularly on the 30 of *January*, the 29 of *May*, and the 5 of *November*?

IV. Doth every person in your Parish duely resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holy-days, and there decently and orderly, as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their Heads, Kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

V. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in other Parishes? or

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are they Baptized after other Form than is appointed? or are they kept Unbaptized longer than is allowed? or are there any Infants or more aged Persons as yet Unbaptized?

VI. Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age, who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which *Easter* is alwaies to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling, or resort to other Parishes? or do any Strangers come to your Parish-Church to receive it?

VII. Are there any in your Parish that be Denounced and declared Excommunicate, for any crime committed? How long have they been so Excommunicated?

VIII. Are there any living in your Parish who have been unlawfully married, *scilicet*, Without publication of Banns, or License first obtained, or within the degrees prohibited?

IX. Are there any married Women within your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings according to Custome?

X. Are there any that refuse to pay their Duty for *Easter* Offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

XI. Do any refuse to bury their Dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish that be not proved? Or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying within your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XII. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

XIII. Do all Parents and Masters or Mistresses of Families send and cause their Children and Apprentices, or young Servants, to come to their Minister in the Church to be catechised and instructed in the Fundamentals of Religion? And who are they that refuse so to do?

TIT. V.

Concerning Pariſh-Clarks, and Sextons.

I. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Pariſh-Clerk aged 21 years at the leaſt? Is he of honeſt Life and Converſation, and ſufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he choſen by your Miniſter, and doth he duely attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duely paid unto him, or who with-holdeth the ſame from him?

II. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent? in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service? And when any perſon is departing out of this Life, doth he upon notice toll a Bell, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the Dying-perſon to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Schoolmaſters and Schools.

I. DOth any man keep a publick or private School in your Pariſh, who is not allowed thereunto by the Ordinary; Doth he teach his Scholars the Catechiſm of Religion ſet forth by Authority? Doth he cauſe his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and ſee that they behave themſelves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

I. ARe the Church-Wardens of your Pariſh yearly and duely choſen, by the joynt conſent of your Miniſter and Pariſhioners? or one of them by your Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners?

II. Have the former and laſt Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Pariſh, and delivered up to the ſucceeding Church-Wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. You are further to underſtand, That according to your Office, you are to provide againſt every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a ſufficient quantity of fine White Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

THE END.

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